

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 December 2013

PRESENT: Professor A. De Ruyter, Professor C. Donaldson, Professor P. Flowers, Dr L. Gray, Professor D. Greenhalgh, Professor D. Harrison, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Professor S. McMeekin, Professor B. Steves, Professor J. Tombs, Professor J. Woodburn

APOLOGIES: Professor B. Hughes, Professor D. Smith, Professor V. Webster, Professor J. Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr J Edwards (Policy and Planning), Ms M. Miller (Library), Mr P. Woods (Secretary)

MINUTES

013.037 Considered: The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 (**REC13/10/1**).

013.038 Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

CREDO (*Arising on RCM013.020*)

013.039 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the composition of the group had been refreshed.

URC Working Groups on research impact/social media/open access (*Arising on RCM013.33*)

013.042 Reported: By Professor Marshall that work would begin in earnest in the new year.

DRAFT OUTCOME AGREEMENT (*Item A10 moved to beginning of agenda*)

013.043 Considered: The draft outcome agreement submission to the Scottish Funding Council (**REC13/15/1**).

013.044 Reported: By Dr Edwards that the Outcome Agreements were a requirement of the Scottish Funding Council showing competencies across a range of activities, including research. The document presented was a draft and she invited comments from the Committee.

013.045 Discussion: Members discussed the research content of the draft and made the following comments:

- The targets were too conservative
- There should be clearer linkage to the REF submission
- Careful about forward projection becoming baseline
- There was a need to highlight why research was important to GCU students, to our learning and teaching and to our graduates.

- The award of the HR Excellence in Research was underplayed in the draft
- The individual case studies were too detailed
- Listing the case studies was, in itself, backward looking; the strategies in REF3a and REF5s would provide a forward looking perspective
- PhD Completions – add a sentence to reflect improvement.

013.046 Resolved: That any further comments be sent to Dr Edwards.

CHAIR'S REPORT

REF2014

013.047 Reported: By the Chair that he thanked all members involved preparing the REF submission. Attention now turned to REF2020. REF MG kept going in some form.

REF 2014 SUBMISSION

013.048 Considered: Summary reports from the submission system by UoA (REC13/11/1).

013.049 Reported: By Professor Marshall that a summary had been provided as the REF system did not allow a full printout. There had already been some correspondence regarding REF audit requirements and the first requirement was verification of UoA 30 (History) staff details. All audit requests would be electronic and there would be no audit visits to the University. The REF audit contacts were Professor Marshall and Paul Queen (for income related data).

Professor Marshall added that more complex requests were likely to arrive later in 2014 when impact case study information could be requested.

013.050 Resolved: That the update is noted.

HEFCE CONSULTATION ON OPEN ACCESS IN POST 2014 REF

013.051 Considered: The online response from GCU to the consultation (**REC13/12/1**).

013.052 Reported: By Professor Marshall that a consultation response had been submitted and was provided here for the Committee. The URC Open Access Subgroup had been circulated for comments prior to making the submission. The report on the consultation was expected in the first quarter of 2014 and there were various implications for the University, particularly with regard to the institutional repository. By 2016 the sector would have to be open access and institutions would be adopting various approaches to dealing with this e.g UCL becoming a publisher of their own monographs.

013.053 Discussion: Members discussed implications of the additional cost engendered by open access and how it could be addressed:

- Members were not convinced cost could be factored into grant applications.
- Many publisher subscription discounts were being offered (which was RCUK's preferred outcome)
- The University could be using stronger peer review mechanisms and setting thresholds e.g. minimum of 3*.
- Subject areas could define preferred publisher lists.

Members noted that some of these aspects were already in operation in different sections of the University. It was likely that some cognizance of subject area would have to be factored in to these discussions.

013.054 Resolved: That the URC Open Access Subgroup review sector practice and report back to the Committee.

PHD STUDENTSHIPS

013.055 Considered: The outcomes of the 2013 process and proposed process for 2014 (**REC13/14/1**).

013.056 Reported: By the Chair that he was minded to apply the same formula as in 2013 but would have to verify that the REG funding was available to the same level.

013.057 Discussion: Professor Steves reminded members that the projects put forward for studentships should be derived from the existing PhD portfolio.

013.058 Resolved:

1. The allocation will be as in 2013 (pending confirmation that the same funding is available).
2. The projects proposed are to be taken from the PhD projects portfolio.
3. Research Institute Directors/ADRs should prioritise cross-cutting project proposals.
4. Recommendations (from RIDs/ADRs) for funded projects are given to PVCRC (date to be specified)

GCU HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

013.058 Considered: The action plan submitted for the successful award (**REC13/13/1**).

013.059 Reported: By Professor Steves that the application success was received ahead of the REF submission so was able to be incorporated in REF5s. She congratulated all who had contributed to the submission. The action plan would be progressed through the CREDO group.

013.060 Reported: By Professor Marshall that it was important to remember that the action had to align with the University Research Strategy. Also the process was not only about ECR or contract researchers but also about research leadership. The action plan showed that the University had HR policies in place but these required better linkage across the University. It was also important to remember that the process would be research-led.

013.061: Resolved: That the contributors to the submission be thanked for their work.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

013.062 Reported: By Professor de Ruyter that IT Services operated internet filters which blocked material that may be offensive. In a general sense this is understandable however some researchers in GSBS undertaking research in sensitive areas related to crime were also finding material relating to their research blocked. IT services had been informed that individual PCs could have the filters disabled but this would have to be agreed at a higher level.

013.063 Reported: By Professor Greenhalgh that currently there was not a University policy on this issue. At the moment these matters could be considered on a case by case basis and researchers would have to acknowledge their own responsibilities in these areas.

013.064 Resolved: That Professor de Ruyter write to Professor Greenhalgh with the details of the cases in question.

REVISED COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

013.065 Considered: Proposed revisions to the URC composition and membership (**REC13/4/2**).

013.066 Resolved: That the composition be revised to include a student member and 5 members of academic research staff but otherwise remain the same as the 2012-13 composition.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

013.067 Approved: The Research Committee Annual Report 2010-11 (**REC13/5/2**).

HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

013.068 Received: HDSC minutes 18 September 2013 (**HDC13/58/1**).

SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 013.069 Received:**
1. GSBS Research Committee minutes 22 August 2013 (**GSBSRC/14**)
 2. SEBE Research Committee minutes 18 September 2013 (**SEBE RC/12/38**)
 3. SHLS Research Committee minutes 18 April 2013 (**HLSRC/12/12/2**)
 4. SHLS Research Committee minutes 11 July 2013 (**HLSRC/12/16/1**)